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A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON FRENCH NEW TOWN PLANNING

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A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON
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by

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INTRODUCTION

All towns, of course, were "new." Of many, their origin pre-dates recorded or hearsay history. And not a few that were founded at various periods, adventitiously or by deliberate design, carry to this day, the labels of their former novelty: such names as Newton, Neustadt, Villeneuve, Novgorod and Novigrad, are found everywhere, in all types of combinations, and are so sedately elderly that the significance of their names passes unnoticed. Such towns and settlements have indeed existed throughout the history of urban man. The army encampment, the administrative and colonial capitals of Greece and the Roman Empire are examples. The "Bastide" towns of France in the 13th century constituted one of the largest ventures of new town founding in history. But the modern day concept of the "NEW TOWN" derives from the late 19th and early 20th century ideas of Ebenezer Howard, who was the first to conceive of the contemporary "garden city."

Since Howard's ideas have been espoused, many "new towns" have been built in Britain, especially those immediately following World War II. They have significantly influenced the thinking of the Western World both in Europe and America, where the creation of new towns has become almost a common-day event. These newly planned settlements have been and continue to be established for multiple and diverse purposes. New political capitals, such as Brasilia and Chandigarh; garden city suburbs such as Tapiola in Finland and Reston in the U.S.A. in order to aid in the decongestion of densely populated conurbations; Vallingby and Farsta in Sweden, to guide and control Stockholm's growth in a rational manner; Kitimat in Canada and Norilsk in the Soviet Union for the development of resources in underpopulated regions; Ashdod in Israel, as a major seaport and absorption centre for new immigrants; and many, many others, including those which are merely attempting to provide better and more humane living conditions for people the world over, and to bring them one step nearer to the Utopia of which we all dream, and which always seems ever so distant.

Today, as we enter the seventies, there is one country, amongst others, which is concentrating its focus on the 'new town' as a response to the contemporary problems of urban and regional development. This country is France. She has for the past several years been carefully studying the regional development policies and new town experiments all over the world with the objective of learning the positive lessons and avoiding the errors which the various nations have made in the implementation of what amounts to being a very large number of new towns.

As the French Government is presently in the process of formulating for itself a rational and workable policy on new towns, it has recently created (May 26, 1970) a National Commission on New Towns, which will be responsible for the coordination of all activities of the ten national ministries related to new towns in France, and which has been characterized by French officials as the "kick-off" of the national new town program in France. Nine new towns are officially in planning and development in France, including the new town of Le Vaudreuil, near Rouen, which is the subject of a U.S.-French collaborative program in environmental planning.

The literature on new towns which has emanated and which continues to emanate from France is significant, both in its quantitative and qualitative attributes. It will often present the reader with a different viewpoint than that expressed in the abounding material written in the English language, for it is seen and comprehended by a culture other than our own, which appears to concern itself with the symbolic, visual and hierarchical elements of the city - those which are largely ignored in the American preoccupation with processing, handling and retrieval of urban information, although these are not overlooked.

It is in this context that I have endeavoured to provide the reader with a selected bibliography on French New Town Planning. In so far as those towns that have been built between 1940-60 are concerned, a very thorough and comprehensive bibliography already exists. Its title:

New Towns: A Selected Annotated Bibliography

by

Jean Viet

UNESCO Reports and Papers in the Social Sciences,

No. 12

United Nations, N.Y., 1960

Therefore, I have included only those more recent references which have been published since 1960. It is also to be noted that the current French literature dealing with urban and regional planning is most extensive, and that the present work has attempted to focus its attention specifically on the "NEW TOWN."

I wish to dedicate this bibliography to all those who devote their personal and professional efforts to study and research, having as their ultimate goal, the betterment of man's environment. If, within these pages, I am able to make some small contribution by which environmental complexities may be better understood and translated into qualitative realities, my purpose will have been fulfilled.

Prof. Norman E.P. Pressman
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
May 1972.

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| | |
|---------|---|
| CDC | Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (Deposit and Consignment Bank) |
| CERAU | Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche d'Aménagements Urbains (Centre for Study and Research in Urban/Regional Planning) |
| CRU | Centre de Recherche d'Urbanisme (Centre for Urban Research) |
| CEE | Comité d'Expansion Economique (Committee of Economic Expansion) |
| CIPARAT | Comité Interministériel pour les Problèmes d'Action Régionale et d'Aménagement du Territoire (Interministerial Committee for the Problems of Regional Action and Land/Territorial Development) |
| CODER | Commission de Développement Economique Régional (Commission on Regional Economic Development) |
| CNAT | Commission Nationale de l'Aménagement du Territoire (National Commission for Land/Territorial Development) |
| DATAR | Délégation à l'Aménagement du Territoire et à l'Action Régionale (Delegation for Territorial Development and Regional Action) |
| FNAT | Fonds National d'Aménagement du Territoire (National Fund for Territorial Development) |
| GCEPU | Groupe Central de Planification Urbaine (Central Group for Urban Planning) |
| IAURP | Institut d'Aménagement et d'Urbanisme de la Région Parisienne (Institute of Urban and Regional Planning and Development for the Paris Region) |
| OREAM | Organisme Régional d'Etude de l'Aire Métropolitaine (Metropolitan Area Regional Study Group) |
| PADOG | Plan d'Aménagement et d'Organisation Générale de la Région Parisienne (Plan for Development and General Organization of the Paris Region) |
| STCAU | Service Technique Central d'Aménagement et d'Urbanisme (Central Technical Service of Development and Planning) |
| ZUP | Zone à Urbaniser par Priorité (Priority Zone for Urbanization) |

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District de la Région Parisienne
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MONSIEUR JEAN-EUDES ROUILLER

Groupe Central des Villes Nouvelles
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